

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES MARCH 15, 2004

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Campbell opened the meeting at 7:05 PM and introduced the Board, noting changes that have taken place at the preceeding Work Session. Introduced were Lionel Ingram, Vice Chairman, Paul Binette, Clerk, Joe Pace, and Bob Eastman. Also present was George Olson Town Manager.

2. Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of March 1, 2004

It was moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Ingram, to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented. SO VOTED

3. Swearing in ceremony

Chairman Campbell asked Town Clerk Linda Hartson to come forward. Ms. Hartson subsequently asked those present that had been elected at the Town Meeting of March 9th to come to the front of the room to be sworn in. Ms. Hartson read the names of all those elected on the 9th noting those present. The swearing in ceremony commenced. Ms. Hartson passed on her congratulations to all.

4. Results of the preceding Selectmen's work session

Chairman Campbell noted the Board's new officers and asked the Clerk to read the names of the Selectmen appointed to various Boards and Committees. Mr. Binette did so. (See attached.)

Chairman Campbell noted the failure of the operating budget at the polls on the 9th and the Board's decision to direct the Town Manager to come back at the meeting of March 29th with an operating budget that reflects the default budget figure, a reduction of some \$648,000.

5. Bid awards: Refurbishment of Engine 2 and Police Department identification

Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Olson to address the matter. Mr. Olson recommended that the second to the lowest bid for refurbishment of the 1986 CF Mack fire pumper be awarded to Emergency Vehicles of Maine Inc. for a bid price of \$62,900. The low bidder did not meet the bid specification. **So moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Ingram. SO VOTED.**

Mr. Olson recommended that bid to provide a new identification system be awarded to the low bidder, Alpha Card Systems of Corte Madera CA for a bid price of \$6,110. Mr. Olson reminded the Board that the cost is 100% reimbursable through homeland security funds. **So moved by Mr. Ingram, second by Me. Pace. SO VOTED**

6. Presentation of plans for expansion of Recreation Park off the Hampton Rd.

Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Olson to introduce the topic. Mr. Olson indicated that Mike Favreau, the Town's Parks and Recreation Director has been working on a win/win proposition whereby, through volunteer efforts, the Town could enjoy additional soccer fields. He asked Mr. Favreau to come to the mic and explain. Mr. Favreau explained that he had been in discussion with Exeter Youth Soccer (EYS), a private not for profit organization that has been looking for playing fields for years. These discussions have been ongoing for a year and in January plans were brought forward to expand the playing fields at the Recreation Park off Hampton Rd. Mr. Favreau stated that of the 23-acre site only half was in active use. In short the project envisions the bumping out of the current fields in the direction of Route 101 and the creation of two soccer fields with an east west orientation. All of the cost of creating the fields will be born by EYS, there will be no cost to the Town. There will be disruption over the summer, but alternative arrangements have been worked out.

Mr. Eastman asked if the fields are indeed could not be used this summer. Mr. Favreau responded that this was the case since without sodding the summer is needed for the grass to establish itself. The fields would be usable in the fall. The new fields will be irrigated, as will the existing ball fields. If the Town's summer programs need additional fields, EYS has agreed to help with rental of field space.

Mr. Favreau invited Mr. Glen Clink representing EYS to come to the mic. Mr. Clink noted his 7 years with the organization and its founding in 1978. His organization services some 200 boys and girls ages 8 to 14 and acts as a feeder to Exeter High School's soccer program. Even with their history and the success of the program EYS had no fields of its own. Successful completion of the project will result in two fields for EYS and the Town. He noted the considerable help EYS had received from Jones and Beach Engineers and Hutter Construction. The latter will be providing equipment and personnel for construction of the fields. The value of the effort will be in excess of \$200,000. He noted that he has a petition of support for the project with the names of 260 residents and letters from the High School indicating support. The Recreation Advisory Committee has voted unanimously to support the project.

Jon Ring of Jones and Beach came to the mic and detailed the project. He stated that EYS has an appointment with the Planning Board on March 25th. He would like to see work begin as soon as possible after the visit to the Planning Board.

Chairman Campbell thanked those making presentations and asked the Board if there were questions. He asked if there were any issues associated with parking as a result of the development of the fields. Mr. Clink responded that there would be little or no impact since different groups used the fields at different times and only one group would be on the field at a time.

Mr. Pace noted the similarity with the efforts of EYS and his efforts associated with football at the Cooperative School. He suggested that there be a contract of some kind

between the Town and EYS that memorializes the right of EYS to use the fields in the long run. Chairman Campbell confirmed that trees would be kept between the fields and Rout 101. Mr. Eastman described an option for additional parking. Mr. Favreau indicated that there are 84 general parking spaces at the Recreation Park and that the real crunch comes in the summer between 3 and 5 PM. The soccer program is most active in the spring.

Mr. Favreau went on to describe the value of constructing a temporary road to the rear of the pool so that the material that Hutter Construction has stored on the City Concrete site can be moved to the new field location without the need to go out on Hampton Rd. and then back into the park. Mr. Ring noted that there are no wetlands within 50 feet of any of the areas to be disturbed. All were in agreement on the temporary road.

It was moved by Mr. Eastman, second by Mr. Ingram to support the EYS plan for development of fields conditioned upon review and approval by the Planning Board. SO VOTED. It was agreed that Mr. Olson would receive, for review, a lease agreement describing the relationship between the Town and EYS re the long-term use of the new fields. The lease will subsequently be presented to the Board for review and execution.

7. Presentation of plans for improvements to the Water St/Main St. intersection

Chairman Campbell invited Mr. Olson to address this item. Mr. Olson noted the near 2-year project before the Board and the joint efforts of the Town and Phillips Exeter Academy in putting together a plan to improve the intersection. He noted that Public Works Director Keith Noyes had been the Town's lead person on the project and asked him to come to the mic. Mr. Noyes noted the important contributions both financial and in staff made by PEA in undertaking and completing the project. He stated the Vanness Hangen had been hired to do the planning and engineering on the project and introduced Greg Backus of VHB. Mr. Noyes suggested that the project be linked to the Historic Downtown Master Plan effort currently underway.

Mr. Backus came to the mic and made a presentation to the Board on the project. He described the narrowing of the intersection, the narrowing of the roadway from Tan Lane to the intersection and the realignment of crosswalks. The estimated cost of the project is between \$125,000 and \$150,000.

Chairman Campbell solicited questions from the Board and asked for confirmation that access to PEA's parking lot at the intersection would be closed. Confirmed. Mr. Ingram expressed concern over the location of the crosswalk at the top of Town Hill and recommended that steps be taken to make the crosswalk more visible for westbound drivers. Mr. Pace noted the raised, texturized crosswalks in Durham and how effective they have been.

Mr. Ingram asked why the link with the Historic Downtown Master Plan? Mr. Noyes went over the timing of the two projects and how they would likely come to the voters in the same year. He indicated that the Town could do some work when PEA closed access

to its parking lot at the intersection. Mr. Binette asked if the road needed to be closed for the work to be done. No, one lane would be kept open at all times and some traffic could use the Parkway rather than Water St. Mr. Pace suggested that nothing be done on the project until such time as current budget issues were resolved.

There was consensus among Board members that the project be made a part of the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Eastman suggested that one option would be to phase the project.

Arthur Baillargeon asked to be recognized. He expressed concern over narrowing the road and its impact on snow fighting and questioned if the parking on Water St. would remain. Answer yes, parking will remain.

Chairman Campbell thanked all for their presentations.

8. Permits

Request from Church World Service to hold the annual Crop Walk (walkathon) on May 2 from 1 until 5 PM. Chief Kane has approved the route

Request from Young Life to use the Town Hall for a band night for local high school students on May 7, from 4 to 10 PM

Request from PEA to hold a bike race May 8 from 2 until 6 PM. Chief Kane has approved the route.

Request from Exeter PTO to put banners in the right of way on Lincoln St on May 15.

Request from Reach the Beach Relay for a road race through Exeter on September 18, from 7 AM until 2 PM. Chief Kane had approved the route.

Request from Jody Rogers to use the Wheelwright Room from March 17th from 7 until 10 PM.

So moved by Mr. Ingram, second by Mr. Eastman. SO VOTED

9. Town Manager's items

Chairman Campbell turned to Mr. Olson who indicated that the winter parking ban ended the evening of the 15th, that spring cleanup was scheduled for the week of April 5 thru 9 and that the Board's next meeting was set for the 29th. He also asked for volunteers to come forward and to serve on the Town's various Board and Committees.

10. Selectmen's comments


Mr. Eastman noted the Planning Board's conditional approval of the new Stop and Shop market off Portsmouth Ave. He also thanked those that voted for him for re-election and looks forward to three more years.

Mr. Binette also thanked the voters for their support last Tuesday.

Mr. Pace thanked Mr. Binette for his year of service as Board Chairman and congratulated Mr. Campbell on being elected Chairman.

There being no public comment, it was moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Eastman to adjourn. 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'George Olson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Olson
Town Manager